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Title: Need to allocate forest land for the benefit of pilgrims to "Sabarimal Shrine" in Kerala.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (IDUKKI): Sir, I have raised this matter several times. The Sabrimala shrine is one of the most important shrines in the country. Every year millions converge in this particular area which is located in a dense forest. Due to congestion and overcrowding, accidents do take place. Many have lost their lives. Many have been seriously injured. There has been a request which is pending, which was made by the Kerala Government, the Travancore Devasam Board and the Members of Parliament from Kerala to devolve land for extending facilities to the millions of pilgrims who go there. The hon. Former Minister is here. He knows it very well. But this request has not been considered so far. Now, the festival season is on. I again request the Government. The State Government will do the necessary compensatory afforestation. So, I request the Central Government to devolve enough land for extending facilities in the Sabrimala shrine.